

## HOW TO USE A REVOLVER

Practical Information About Different Makes, Sizes and Models.

## SCIENCE OF HANDLING POCKET ARTILLERY

Best Way of Carrying the Typical American Weapon, of Aiming It, of Making a Bullet More Deadly.

The revolver is the American national weapon. To most men it is merely something that will shoot, that is small and that can be carried in the pocket. So is a fire-cracker. But in the hands of an expert the revolver is a terrible weapon. Twelve shots, each deadly enough to kill a man or horse, can be fired accurately by one man in half as many seconds. This is at short range, of course. The revolver, depending on circumstances, is accurate up to 100 feet, but shooting at such a distance is mostly fancy target practice. The true work of the revolver is rapid, deadly execution at short range without an instant's warning and against superior force.

It is the object of this article to give a few hints upon the six-shooter and its uses, such as has been gained by the writer both by experience and observation. It is pre-

sumed that every man may have occasion at times, particularly war times, to defend himself and the information in this article is intended to be intensely practical.

To begin with, nothing but the best revolver, regardless of cost, should be carried, and the revolver that might be very good for one purpose might be very poor for another. For instance, a 45-caliber single action Colt's six-shooter is the best holster gun made, while the 38-caliber Smith & Wesson double action hammer gun is the best pocket weapon. Although there have been, during the last ten or fifteen years, four or five high-grade revolvers put upon the market, only two remain, the Colt's and the Smith & Wesson. All other revolvers in use in America today are imitations, more or less worthless, of these two radically different types.

A 38-caliber revolver need not have a barrel over three inches long. A barrel of this length is just about as efficient as a longer barrel, but not so accurate. However, the difference in accuracy is not perceptible at short range, up to fifty feet, for instance. The best pocket gun is, by all means, the 38-caliber Smith & Wesson, three-inch barrel, double action, hammer gun. Smith & Wesson manufacture a hammerless gun labeled as a "Safety" revolver. This is the most dangerous revolver Smith & Wesson manufacture, their claims to the contrary notwithstanding. The writer owned one once and several times came near losing a finger or two. He then traded it for a hammer gun of the same size and make and has never had an accident since. Every accident he ever had with this so-called "safety hammerless." The gun, however, was one of the most accurate the writer has ever owned. If safety is desired it can be had in a hammer gun of any size or make by keeping all the chambers loaded full. The violation of this rule is the cause of nine-tenths of all revolver accidents. Either keep a gun loaded full or keep it empty and never use a revolver for a plaything or in fun in any way.

The Colts also manufacture a 38-caliber revolver that is now used in the United States army and navy, but the gun is practically a failure, because it lacks killing power. It is as large, although not so heavy as the 45 old-fashioned army gun, the best six-shooter made. The new army and navy revolver is neither a pocket nor a holster gun. It is too large to be one and too weak in execution to be the other. One of these revolvers will not stop a charging man or horse where the old 45 would settle matters instantly.

If a man wants a pocket gun let him choose the 38 Smith & Wesson. If he wishes a holster gun then let him get a 45 Colt's, blued, single-action, 4 1/2-inch barrel.

## How to Aim a Revolver.

Of the four models of the 44 and 45 Colt's six-shooter the old-fashioned style is the best, with the exception of the "Bisley" model. This is the best gun that the Colts make. The only objection that can be brought against this style is that the stock or handle is rather large for a small hand. But for a medium sized or large hand the "Bisley" model is perfection so far as rapid and accurate shooting qualities are concerned. The only objection there is to the old-fashioned army style of six-shooter is that the handle is not big enough. In moments of excitement the hand naturally assumes its correct position with the wrist straight. This throws the muzzle of the old army style upward. The number of shots that fly high from this style of Colts is a matter of true account for. In the "Bisley" model the handle is bent and when the hand is in the natural attitude the barrel of a "Bisley" model Colt's points straight ahead, or even a little downward, which is just the style of Colt's in a muzzle is thus accounted for. One does shoot high. There is little or no danger of shooting too low. If this should occur, then there are the lower parts of the trunk and legs to strike. In aiming quickly in the dark at a man some little distance away the knees or feet are the best points to aim at. As one almost always

shoots high in the dark, the bullet will then probably fly on a horizontal line. If one should shoot too low the bullet would strike the ground and then strike the mark upon rebounding. A 45 bullet will still retain plenty of powder to kill under such circumstances.

Although a pearl-handled, nickel-plated gun is very showy, it is impractical compared with the quieter but more ominous steel blued. In the sunlight an accurate aim cannot be taken over a nickel-plated barrel, while a blue barrel causes no trouble. At night a nickel gun is plainly seen, whereas a blue gun would be invisible. Then, too, a blue gun is much more easily concealed than is a nickel one. The same things apply as to light or dark handles on revolvers. Wood or rubber is far better than ivory or pearl. It is always an advantage to keep a weapon concealed until the instant it is really needed. A revolver will be seen quickly and easily enough without coating it with shining nickel.

## Making a Bullet More Deadly.

When it is desired to make a 45 bullet more deadly, split the ends into four equal parts, with a knife or saw, as far down as the shell. When this enters anything it will open out like a four-pointed spinning star as large as half a dollar and will tear a hole in any living creature large enough to run your hand into. A shot of such a nature through the arm or leg would mean the sure loss of that member. A shot in the body would mean quick or instant death. However, such bullets are only for short range, as they go tumbling end over end after flying any distance. It is only a matter of

fastening with a slip noose. If properly made, a hard and stiff leather holster will hold a gun tight enough to prevent its falling out, but still will not stick to it when it is being quickly drawn for use.

The best way to carry a belt gun is to carry it in a stiff holster on a loose belt. The belt should be as loose as possible, being only tight enough to prevent it from slipping down over the hips. Of course, a loop cartridge belt is meant, as this is the only satisfactory way to carry ammunition. The handle of the gun should point backward. It should be worn on the right side where it will be the most convenient to draw quickly or where it rests the easiest. A revolver pulled around in front on the left side is in the way and cannot be drawn as quickly as from the right hip. Besides, it is a rest to the right side and is much more conspicuous, which is to be avoided as far as possible. The exception to this rule is when one is carrying a gun on a belt beneath an overcoat. Then the gun should be worn on the left side well to the front so that the hand can be thrust into the opening of the overcoat and grasp the gun without having to wait to unbutton the coat. However, if the overcoat is worn unbuttoned the right side is much the best place to carry a heavy gun. Some prefer to carry a gun concealed under the coat strapped under the left arm pit, with the handle or stock pointing forward. This is all very well for a light gun, but in this position a heavy gun is very uncomfortable. The place to carry a gun to have it always in position for instant use is on the right leg just above the knee in a holster swung from the belt and fast to the leg by a leather string or strap around the leg. In this position the hand will always naturally rest either upon the gun or very near it. But in this position a gun is very conspicuous. However, in places where one is supposed to be armed this does not matter.

## Carrying a Gun on Horseback.

When on horseback and armed with a gun swung on the right hip, the belt can be lashed so that the gun will hang in front, far down on the inside of the right leg. Here it rests very easily when one is galloping rapidly, and can be drawn instantly. When on horseback always wear the gun on the belt instead of fastening it to the horn of the saddle. When fastened to the saddle one's horse and gun sometimes disappear together. The best way to carry a large Colt's gun without using a holster and belt is to throw out the spring catch that prevents the cartridges from either one of the two guns. When fastened to the catch as a hook that catches in the waistband of the trousers or vest at the small of the back. In this way, although at first the revolver may feel rather insecure, a large gun carried with the belt, even in hot weather when perspiration would rust an unprotected gun in the pocket. In cold weather, or when protected from sweat, this method of carrying a gun can be used and the gun carried in front of the vest. This is a favorite method of crooks and other professional criminals. To carry one, or even two, long, large guns concealed without using a belt and holster, even when wearing a short coat, put the handles of the guns in the pockets, sticking the barrels pointing to the backbone under the vest. All of these methods are comparatively awkward, but are useful to know. If one can have an excuse for wearing an overcoat the very best way of all to carry either one or two guns is to carry them in the outside breast pockets under a large, roomy cape. If trouble is expected the guns can be quickly drawn from the pockets, noiselessly cocked and carried in the hands ready for instant use, but still be secure. If at short range one can shoot through the cape if necessary. This is the quickest, easiest and best way to carry and use a revolver. The weight in the breast pockets is distributed over the shoulders, so is not so much. This method of carrying a gun or a pair of them can be improved upon by wearing one, or better, two large guns on a belt of cartridges strapped around the waist outside of the overcoat. Your enemy keeps his eye on the gun in his hand, but he is not expecting the pair that are probably already cocked and aimed at him beneath the cape. If a pair of long-barreled Colts, seven and one-half inch barrels or over, are carried on the belt in plain view for long-range shooting, and also on the belt in the breast pockets, the guns are carried in a pair of "sawed-off" 45s, are carried in the breast pockets of a cape overcoat or in the side pockets of an ordinary short coat, then one is outfitted in the best possible manner so far as revolvers are concerned. Two horses, each pair can be used, either one or two, for ordinary pocket use when occasion does not require one to be heavily armed or prepared for instant trouble.

If two revolvers are carried they should be by all means be just alike in every way.

## CONSPIRACIES.

Robert J. Burdette is to marry a wealthy widow, and yet some people contend that humor does not pay.

A German professor of music in New York secured a wife through a matrimonial advertisement. She promptly wanted a divorce when she found he wasn't rich.

A member of an Illinois bachelor's club who ten years ago offered a \$50 gold medal to the member of the club who should first become the father of twins has just won his own prize.

The vitality of the mother-in-law problem is illustrated in the case of Rebecca Martin, 75 years old, of Kokomo, Ind., who has sued her husband, 80 years old, for divorce because of a row over his mother, who is 80.

From a matrimonial point of view, Idaho is the best state of the union, for there the number of the bachelors is to that of the maidens as 16,584 to 1,426, each unmarried woman in Idaho, therefore, having ten or eleven bachelors, not exactly at her beck, but available as a husband.

All the suitors for a girl's hand in Bora-Bora are expected to be generous and never returned. Therefore the wily young ladies defer as long as possible a positive selection of the happy man. The presenters of the natives have earned as the wild men of Bora-Bora.

The North Dakota senate has passed the bill to regulate marriage. It provides for the appointment of a commission of three physicians in each county for the examination of all applicants for marriage licenses. No license to marry can be granted unless applicants present a certificate from the board of examiners that they are free from certain diseases and ailments, including dipsomania, hereditary insanity and tuberculosis.

James Cecil Hoar of this city, private secretary to Mrs. Phoebe Hearst, and Edith Dingley, who is the daughter of the late Representative Dingley, will be married in Lewiston, Me., March 11. Because of the recent death of Mr. Dingley the wedding will be private. No invitation has been issued except to the immediate families of the bride and groom. Miss Dingley has a fine soprano voice. She has been described by one of the "one of the handmaidens of the bride" as "one of the handmaidens of the bride" in Washington.

Prof. D. R. McNally, in the March Ladies' Home Journal, has a most interesting article on "The American Girl's Chance of Marriage." In a carefully compiled paper he shows how age affects the American girl's chances, how they are affected by business conditions and war, in which states her chances are best, in which worst, the influence of education on matrimony, marriage in the country, etc. This writer asserts that the American girl's chances of securing a husband are considerably better than those of a European girl, for the reason that there are 945 women to every 1,000 men in the United States, while in the countries of the old world there are more women than men.

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A Missouri Patriarch Who Owns and Manages 23,000 Acres.

## INTERESTING STORY FROM REAL LIFE

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TARKIO, Mo., March 4.—A millionaire farmer is clearly to be reckoned a sort of latter day miracle: all the more if he lives in Missouri, and farms all-round and all the year round.

Tarkio, Atchison county, is his local habitation, David Rankin his name. To be strictly accurate, Hon. David Rankin; he has served more than one term in a state legislature. He owns and manages 23,000 acres of land in Atchison county worth from \$20 to \$100 an acre, and not in the market even at these figures. He has bought every acre of it since 1876, mostly from speculative eastern holders, who were gleeful at getting \$8 to \$10 an acre for their holdings because the railway was laid through his big ranch. It gives a new idea of magnificent western distances to know that the Rankin lands are scattered over an area of forty odd miles. Yet their owner visits them all every little while. He lives in a handsome home outside the town of Tarkio. Five o'clock every fine morning finds him in his buggy, whirling to his main office as fast as a spanking span can carry him. He finds a confidential secretary awaiting him. A brief interval of talk, clear and pointed instructions, a few notes, mental and written, then he whips away for a round of maybe half a dozen of his fourteen farms before he thinks of turning his horses' heads home.

The farms run from 600 to 3,000 acres. To work them he employs between 120 and 150 hands, 700 horses, more than 300 wagons, ploughs, harrows, planters, cultivators and seeders innumerable. Each ranch is in charge of a competent foreman, who gets \$30 a month and board. Farm hands are paid \$20 a month and board. Usually the foreman's family runs the farm, boarding house. Besides the various foremen there is a farm superintendent, at a salary many a bank official might envy. It is questionable, however, if his best endeavors are worth as much as the eye of the master.

## Never Sells His Corn.

All the land is arable, yet but little more than half gets yearly under plow. Perhaps 2,000 acres are sown to wheat. The remainder is planted in corn, and yields, in average years, 500,000 bushels. Not a grain of it is sold until it has been trodden into fat stock. In addition to his own crop Mr. Rankin buys whatever corn his neighbors have to sell. He buys also their stalk fields, after the corn is gathered, and turns them into herds of cattle, to gather up their rich glebes. Besides all this he buys ton upon ton of cottonseed meal for feeding. Small wonder that his lands grow and increase in fertility under continuous cropping.

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When walking with a woman, if one is suddenly attacked by robbers and protects himself and his companion by using a revolver, the woman is very likely to be hurt or killed by one of the robber's bullets unless he knows what to do instantly to place her in a safe position as possible. Under most circumstances like this the companion would cling to a man in a panic of fear, being too frightened to run, and in doing so she would be in a measure unconsciously shield him and place himself in the danger zone. To avoid all this a man, if he thinks they are in danger of attack, should have the woman on his left arm. Then when attacked if he will suddenly push his companion back by placing his left foot behind her heels and quickly, but not too far, give her a backward push with his left hand as he takes a step forward with his right foot he will have put her out of harm's way, so far as bullets are concerned.

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All the land is arable, yet but little more than half gets yearly under plow. Perhaps 2,000 acres are sown to wheat. The remainder is planted in corn, and yields, in average years, 500,000 bushels. Not a grain of it is sold until it has been trodden into fat stock. In addition to his own crop Mr. Rankin buys whatever corn his neighbors have to sell. He buys also their stalk fields, after the corn is gathered, and turns them into herds of cattle, to gather up their rich glebes. Besides all this he buys ton upon ton of cottonseed meal for feeding. Small wonder that his lands grow and increase in fertility under continuous cropping.

## When Bullets Fly.

If one is within range of bullets during a shooting "scrape," no matter how taken by surprise, the safest position to be in is flat upon the ground. "Under the table" is a favorite resort whenever sudden trouble occurs and six-shooters are in evidence. The reason for this being the safest possible position under the circumstances is because almost all revolver shots fly high. It is very seldom that one strikes the floor. On the same principle it is a favorite trick with those who use the American national weapon to instantly drop on one knee when they begin shooting. One in a position presents a much smaller target to his opponent than if standing, and also has the great advantage of being below the line of fire. As revolver bullets almost always go high they are more liable to fly harmlessly over one's head when kneeling than when standing.

## DAVID RANKIN, THE MILLIONAIRE FARMER OF TARKIO, MO.

is "Set Fire," repeated two or three times quite rapidly. On this occasion he commenced with "Set Fire! Set Fire! What are you doing here with that corn?" The driver calmly replied that he had brought it to town to sell.

This gave rise to a renewed storm of "Set Fires," but fortunately someone who knew the man came forward and explained matters. He was a farmer who had adopted Mr. Rankin's style of raising corn, and it was his own corn that he had brought to town to sell.

## Cattle Raising.

Mr. Rankin fattens more cattle than any other man in the world. Every year he buys and fattens eight to ten thousand head. The bulk of them come from Texas, though Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri are fair sources of supply. He has been known to buy 8,000 head in a bunch and pay on them a freight of \$25,000. He has just now bought 5,000 head of Texas cattle to be delivered next November, paying for them \$30 a head. His shipments of fat cattle begin in June. From the 1st of June to the 1st of September he ships two or three train loads each week.

He keeps 10,000 to 12,000 head of hogs all the time, and sells fat ones to the value of \$50,000 yearly. All these he raises. In fact, he never buys a pig except for the infusion of new blood into his breeding stock. Some years back, while there was money in hogs, he undertook the breeding of draught hogs, and built upon his home farm just outside of Tarkio a horse barn very much up to date. It cost \$10,000, and is an occasional brick building, four stories high. It is lighted throughout with electricity. Each stall has its own incandescent lamp, and the

## RICHEST AMERICAN FARMER

A Missouri Patriarch Who Owns and Manages 23,000 Acres.

## INTERESTING STORY FROM REAL LIFE

Fattens More Cattle Than Any Man in the World—How He Founded a College—Unique in Character and in Expressions.

TARKIO, Mo., March 4.—A millionaire farmer is clearly to be reckoned a sort of latter day miracle: all the more if he lives in Missouri, and farms all-round and all the year round.

Tarkio, Atchison county, is his local habitation, David Rankin his